THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The contribution of Agriculture Sector including forestry and fishing, to GDP in absolute terms at current prices has been continuously increasing during the past decades. However, the share of this contribution to GDP has been showing continuous decline in the past decades reaching the level of 25 percent at the end of the Ninth Plan from about 57 percent in 1950-51. The estimated percentage share of the sector in GDP at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan is not available as the Tenth Plan (2002-07) is not yet approved by the National Development Council.

Decline in agricultural production due to drought

†1071. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) has expressed apprehensions regarding decline in the total production of agriculture in the current financial year, due to drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a possibility of decline in the rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to the above decline; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to contain the decline in the rate of GDP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In May 2002, the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) projected a growth of 2.0% in real GDP in agriculture for 2002-03 compared with 5.7% in 2001-02. Taking into account the impact of drought, the CMIE indicated in August 2002 a decline of 2.5% in real GDP in agriculture for 2002-03.

(c) and (d) The CMIE had based its forecast on the basis of weak monsoon till the end of July. However, monsoon revived subsequently and more areas were brought under cultivation. Therefore, the impact of weak monsoon may not be as severe as apprehended earlier. Further, keeping in view the need to compensate farmers for the losses suffered in unirrigated areas and the additional expenditure incurred in irrigated areas, the government announced special Drought Relief price ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 per quintal for kharif crops of 2002-03 season. States have been assisted through advance release in August 2002 of the Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) due in November, 2002 amounting in all to Rs. 1227.29 crores. Besides, 19.25 lakh tones of foodgrains free of cost have also been allocated for generation of relief employment. The High Level Committee has approved assistance of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Rs. 1999.14 crores to the various drought affected States subject, however, to adjustment of balances available in the CRF of these States.

Regulating spurious and misbranded pesticides

1072. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stiffen the penalty for dealers selling spurious and misbranded pesticides, promoted by recent raids on pesticide dealers in Delhi by Plant Protection Division;

(b) the details of such cases investigated and punishment awarded during the last two years;

(c) whether high expenditure on ineffective and fake pesticides, particularly for cotton, is reported to have drained off poor farmers' meagre resources on inputs; and

(d) whether Government would consider appointing a regulatory authority to oversee quality control for pesticides, fertilizers, manures, seeds, to protect farmers; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last two years, 301 licenses were suspended, 710 licenses were cancelled, 800 prosecutions were launched, 154 judgments were obtained and 81 convictions took place for offences under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(c) There is no such report with the Government.

(d) No, Sir. The quality of pesticides in being regulated under the provisions of the insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder and that of seeds, under the Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. Similarly, the quality of fertilizers and manures is being regulated under the provisions of the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985 issued under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Nominations for Institutions of Ministry of Agriculture

1073. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government institutions/undertakings functioning under the Ministry, in which non-Governmental persons are nominated;